

women in leadership positions so as to capitalize on the ability of women to deliver scarce resources effectively and fairly.

(I) The international community must work together to dismantle trade barriers, including the immediate elimination of trade-distorting commodity support.

(J) International donors should strengthen multilateral institutions in Africa to respond appropriately to local and regional crises as well as to promote economic development and ensure the people of Africa are granted a stronger voice in international forums.

(K) The international community must join in providing creative incentives for commercial firms to research and develop products that improve water, sanitation, health, and the environment in ways that would dramatically reduce suffering and increase productive life-spans in Africa.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **GROUP OF EIGHT.**—The term “Group of Eight” means the forum for addressing international economic, political, and social issues attended by representatives of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

(3) **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**—The term “Millennium Development Goals” means the goals set out in United Nations Millennium Declaration, resolution [55/1] 55/2 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 8, 2000.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

[(1) the President should continue to provide the leadership necessary at the summit of the Group of Eight scheduled for July 2005 at Gleneagles, Scotland, to encourage other countries to develop a true partnership to pursue the Millennium Development Goals;]

(1) *the President should continue to provide the leadership shown at the summit of the Group of Eight held in July 2005 at Gleneagles, Scotland, to continue to encourage other countries to develop a true partnership to pursue the Millennium Development Goals;*

(2) the President should urge the Group of Eight to consider the findings and recommendations contained in the report prepared by the Commission for Africa entitled “Our Common Interest”, as a fundamental guide on which to base their planning, in partnership with the nations of Africa, for the development of Africa;

(3) the Group of Eight, as well as governments of the countries of Africa and regional organizations of such governments, should reaffirm and honor the commitments made in the Africa Action Plan enacted by the Group of Eight in previous years; and

[(4) the international community should pursue further progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals at the summit of the Group of Eight scheduled for July 2005, the United Nations summit scheduled for September 2005, and the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled for December 2005.]

(4) *the international community should continue to build upon the progress made at the summit of the Group of Eight in July 2005 and the United Nations summit in September 2005 toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and should further enable such progress at the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled for December 2005.*

SEC. 5. REPORT.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the conclusion of [the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong that is scheduled to be held] *the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization that is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong from December 13 through December 18, 2005*, the Secretary of State in consultation with other appropriate United States and international agencies shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the progress the international community is making toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

(b) **CONTENT.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A review of the commitments made by the United States and other members of the international community at the summit of the Group of Eight [scheduled for] *in July 2005*, the United Nations summit [scheduled for] *in September 2005*, and the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled for December 2005, that pertain to the ability of the developing world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

(2) A review of United States policies and progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, as well as policies to provide continued leadership in achieving such goals by 2015.

(3) An [evaluation] *evaluation, to the extent possible*, of the contributions of other national and international actors in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

(4) An assessment of the likelihood that the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the committee-reported amendments, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2693) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 13 line 21-22, strike “as a fundamental guide on which to base their planning.”

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 1315), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

VET CENTER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 290, S. 716.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 716) to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance services provided by vet centers, to clarify and improve the provision of bereavement counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 716) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 716

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Vet Center Enhancement Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF VET CENTERS.

(a) **ADDITIONAL OUTREACH WORKERS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall employ not more than 50 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom for the purpose of providing outreach to veterans on the availability of readjustment counseling and related mental health services for veterans under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code.

(b) **CONSTRUCTION WITH CURRENT OUTREACH PROGRAM.**—The veterans employed under subsection (a) are in addition to any veterans employed by the Secretary for the purpose described in that subsection under the February 2004 program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide outreach described in that subsection.

(c) **ASSIGNMENT TO VET CENTERS.**—The Secretary may assign any veteran employed under subsection (a) to any vet center that the Secretary considers appropriate in order to meet the purpose described in that subsection.

(d) **INAPPLICABILITY AND TERMINATION OF LIMITATION ON DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT.**—Any limitation on the duration of employment of veterans under the program described in subsection (b) is hereby terminated, and shall not apply to veterans employed under such program or under this section.

(e) **EMPLOYMENT STATUS.**—Veterans employed under subsection (a) shall be employed in career conditional status, which is the employment status in which veterans are employed under the program described in subsection (b).

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **VET CENTER.**—The term “vet center” means a center for the provision of readjustment counseling and related mental health services under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **VETERAN OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.**—The term “veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom” means any veteran who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING.

(a) **CLARIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY ELIGIBLE FOR COUNSELING.**—Subsection (b) of section 1783 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) For purposes of this subsection, the members of the immediate family of a member of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1) include the parents of such member.”

(b) **PROVISION OF COUNSELING THROUGH VET CENTERS.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) **PROVISION OF COUNSELING THROUGH VET CENTERS.**—Bereavement counseling may be provided under this section through the facilities and personnel of centers for the provision of readjustment counseling and related mental health services under section 1712A of this title.”.

SEC. 4. FUNDING FOR VET CENTER PROGRAM.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2006, \$180,000,000 for the provision of readjustment counseling and related mental health services through centers under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code, including for the discharge of the requirements of this Act (and the amendments made by this Act).

VETERANS HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 284, S. 1182.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1182) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment.

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

S. 1182

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

[SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.]

[(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Care Act of 2005”.

[(b) **REFERENCES.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment or repeal to a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

[SEC. 2. COPAYMENT EXEMPTION FOR HOSPICE CARE.]

[Section 1710 is amended—

[(1) in subsection (f)(1), by inserting “(other than hospice care)” after “nursing home care”; and

[(2) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “(other than hospice care)” after “medical services”.

[SEC. 3. NURSING HOME BED LEVELS; EXEMPTION FROM EXTENDED CARE SERVICES COPAYMENTS FOR FORMER POWS.]

[Section 1710B is amended—

[(1) by striking subsection (b);

[(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively; and

[(3) in subsection (b)(2), as redesignated—

[(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

[(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

[(B) to a veteran who is a former prisoner of war;”.

[SEC. 4. REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN VETERANS' OUTSTANDING EMERGENCY TREATMENT EXPENSES.]

[(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter III of chapter 17 is amended by inserting after section 1725 the following:

“[§ 1725A. Reimbursement for emergency treatment expenses for which certain veterans remain personally liable]

[(a)(1) Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary may reimburse a veteran described in subsection (b) for expenses resulting from emergency treatment furnished to the veteran in a non-Department facility for which the veteran remains personally liable.

[(2) In any case in which reimbursement is authorized under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary, in the Secretary's discretion, may, in lieu of reimbursing the veteran, make payment—

[(A) to a hospital or other health care provider that furnished the treatment; or

[(B) to the person or organization that paid for such treatment on behalf of the veteran.

[(b) A veteran referred to in subsection (a) is an individual who—

[(1) is enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of this title;

[(2) received care under this chapter during the 24-month period preceding the furnishing of such emergency treatment; and

[(3) is entitled to care or services under a health-plan contract that partially reimburses the cost of the veteran's emergency treatment;

[(4) is financially liable to the provider of emergency care treatment for costs not covered by the veteran's health-plan contract, including copayments and deductibles; and

[(5) is not eligible for reimbursement for medical care or services under section 1725 or 1728 of this title.

[(c)(1) Any amount paid by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall exclude the amount of any payment the veteran would have been required to make to the United States under this chapter if the veteran had received the emergency treatment from the Department.

[(2) The Secretary may not provide reimbursement under this section with respect to any item or service—

[(A) provided or for which payment has been made, or can reasonably be expected to be made, under the veteran's health-plan contract; or

[(B) for which payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made by a third party.

[(3)(A) Payment by the Secretary under this section on behalf of a veteran to a provider of emergency treatment shall, unless rejected and refunded by the provider within 30 days of receipt, extinguish any liability on the part of the veteran for that treatment.

[(B) The absence of a contract or agreement between the Secretary and the provider, any provision of a contract or agreement, or an assignment to the contrary shall not operate to modify, limit, or negate the requirement under subparagraph (A).

[(4) In accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, the Secretary shall—

[(A) establish criteria for determining the amount of reimbursement (which may include a maximum amount) payable under this section; and

[(B) delineate the circumstances under which such payment may be made, including requirements for requesting reimbursement.

[(d)(1) In accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, the United States shall have the independent right to recover any amount paid under this section if, and to the extent that, a third party sub-

sequently makes a payment for the same emergency treatment.

[(2) Any amount paid by the United States to the veteran, the veteran's personal representative, successor, dependents, or survivors, or to any other person or organization paying for such treatment shall constitute a lien in favor of the United States against any recovery the payee subsequently receives from a third party for the same treatment.

[(3) Any amount paid by the United States to the provider that furnished the veteran's emergency treatment shall constitute a lien against any subsequent amount the provider receives from a third party for the same emergency treatment for which the United States made payment.

[(4) The veteran or the veteran's personal representative, successor, dependents, or survivors shall—

[(A) ensure that the Secretary is promptly notified of any payment received from any third party for emergency treatment furnished to the veteran;

[(B) immediately forward all documents relating to a payment described in subparagraph (A);

[(C) cooperate with the Secretary in an investigation of a payment described in subparagraph (A); and

[(D) assist the Secretary in enforcing the United States right to recover any payment made under subsection (c)(3).

[(e) The Secretary may waive recovery of a payment made to a veteran under this section that is otherwise required under subsection (d)(1) if the Secretary determines that such waiver would be in the best interest of the United States, as defined by regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

[(f) For purposes of this section—

[(1) the term ‘health-plan contract’ includes—

[(A) an insurance policy or contract, medical or hospital service agreement, membership or subscription contract, or similar arrangement, under which health services for individuals are provided or the expenses of such services are paid;

[(B) an insurance program described in section 1811 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c) or established by section 1831 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j);

[(C) a State plan for medical assistance approved under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.); and

[(D) a workers' compensation law or plan described in section 1729(A)(2)(B) of this title;

[(2) the term ‘third party’ means—

[(A) a Federal entity;

[(B) a State or political subdivision of a State;

[(C) an employer or an employer's insurance carrier; and

[(D) a person or entity obligated to provide, or pay the expenses of, such emergency treatment; and

[(3) the term ‘emergency treatment’ has the meaning given such term in section 1725 of this title.”.

[(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1725 the following:

“[Sec. 1725A. Reimbursement for emergency treatment expenses for which certain veterans remain personally liable.”.

[SEC. 5. CARE FOR NEWBORN CHILDREN OF WOMEN VETERANS RECEIVING MATERNITY CARE.]

[(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter VIII of chapter 17 is amended by adding at the end the following: